

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment

Question reference number: HS 26

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for this all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c) What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- e) What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- f) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- g) What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- h) For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- i) Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

- a) The combined hospitality, food and beverage expenditure incurred by the Department for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2013 is \$334,420. This includes expenditure on tea, coffee, and biscuits for community support services

such as Financial Information Service seminars and CRS Australia customer meetings.

- b) Nil.
- c) Nil.
- d) Nil.
- e) The hospitality and entertainment spend for the Department for the 2013-14 financial year is forecast at \$800,000.
Due to the large amount of information required to provide details for dates, location, purpose and cost of individual events, the preparation of an answer to this question would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- f) Nil.
- g) Nil.
- h) Nil.
- i) No specific spending reductions are planned. The department actively manages hospitality spend and has a sound control framework to contain costs including:
 - a strong financial delegation framework; and
 - financial rules that outline the mandatory requirements in relation to providing food, drink and/or entertainment to persons external to the department.

A substantial amount of the expenditure on hospitality relates to community support services including customer meetings for job seekers and employer workgroups and financial information service seminars where tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.